



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

# **TAKE OFF FOR OPPORTUNITIES Leader's Guide**

Printed by the  
Federal Aviation Administration  
in Cooperation With  
General Aviation Manufacturers Association



## ABOUT THE FILM

TAKE OFF FOR OPPORTUNITIES describes the general aviation industry, the various career opportunities it offers, and the rewards reaped by its employees. This documentary approach to aviation careers explores future opportunities in piloting aircraft, aviation engineering, aircraft maintenance, and avionics repair through the eyes of four young people already in the field. The eleven-minute color film shows young people at work in aviation in four states and the District of Columbia. They talk about salaries, working conditions, lifestyles, and the academic skills needed to enter aviation careers. as the cameras of Emmy-winning cinematographers Paul and Holly Fine follow them through workdays and leisure hours. Washington traffic reporter-pilot Walt Starling provided the film's narration.

The film was produced by the General Aviation Manufacturers Association to assist students in seeking satisfying, stable and lucrative careers in the ever-expanding general aviation industry. In 1982 the film was presented a Golden Eagle award by the Council on International Nontheatrical Events ((CINE)) at its silver anniversary ceremonies in Washington, D. C. Professional juries selected TAKE OFF FOR OPPORTUNITIES for the CINE award in the educational category, making it eligible to represent the United States in future international film festivals.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The general aviation industry offers many career opportunities. Here are the capsule descriptions of several of the careers depicted in TAKE OFF FOR OPPORTUNITIES.

Airframe and Powerplant Technician - Person who keeps airplanes airworthy. She or he is licensed to work on any part of an aircraft's engines, airframe and systems.

Avionics Technician - Person capable of removing, repairing, and replacing aviation electronics equipment in an aircraft.

Engineer - A person who can apply scientific principals to practical ends as in design, construction and operation of efficient and economical structures, equipment and systems. (Many kinds of engineers are employed in general aviation: aerodynamics, aeronautical, dynamics, structures, structural test, functional test, materials and process, manufacturing support, industrial, plant and civil.)

Pilot - There are over three-quarters of a million pilots. The types of pilots involved in general aviation include air taxi and charter pilots, commercial pilots (patrol, ferry, aerial survey, photography, advertising, sight-seeing, and ambulance to name a few), corporate or executive pilots, flight instructors, test pilots and agricultural pilots.

Other Aviation Career Titles - Airport director, administrative and support personnel, airport service person, safety employees, terminal **concessioners**, fixed base operators, lineperson, flight attendant, flight engineer, and many more.

#### BEFORE THE SHOWING

Before showing TAKE OFF FOR OPPORTUNITIES, motivate your viewers in any of the following ways:

1. ASK STUDENTS ABOUT THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM -- military, airlines, general aviation. Can they name those components and define them? (General aviation is all flying except the military and the airlines.) WHICH PART OF CIVIL AVIATION IS LARGER, GENERAL AVIATION OR AIRLINES? (The general aviation fleet of **220,000** airplanes can serve all the nation's **15,000** airports. The airline fleet's **2,600** aircraft serve less than **300** of the nation's airports.)
2. START A CLASS DISCUSSION ON HOW GENERAL AVIATION TOUCHES PEOPLE'S LIVES. Hold up a box of rice, a cancelled check, a letter in an envelope with a cancelled stamp, a map. Each of these items is important in our daily lives and general aviation contributes to bringing each one of these to you. For instance, over **90** percent of America's rice crop is planted by general aviation aircraft. A majority of the checks carried through the Federal Reserve ~~System~~ is transported by general aviation aircraft. Mail and cargo and overnight delivery packages are carried by general aviation aircraft. And, maps are made using aerial photography from general aviation planes.
3. Ask students if they've ever flown in general aviation planes.
4. Is most business travel done by airlines or by general aviation?
5. Ask your viewers to focus on the following points for postviewing discussion:
  - (1) variety of careers described;
  - (2) nature of general aviation planes and airports;
  - (3) skills needed for entering and succeeding in the industry;
  - (4) opportunities they see for themselves in general aviation.

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